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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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10 Houtan Petroleum, Incorporated,

No. C 07-5627 SC (JL)

11 Plaintiffs,

12 NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE AND SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE ORDER

13 v.

14 Conoco Phillips Company,

15 Defendants.  
16 \_\_\_\_\_ /

## 17 TO ALL PARTIES AND COUNSEL OF RECORD:

18 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this case has been referred for a Settlement  
19 Conference before Magistrate Judge James Larson. The Settlement Conference shall take  
20 place on **Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.**, in Judge Larson's chambers, located  
21 at the Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, 15th Floor, San Francisco, California  
22 94102. **If the court-ordered date presents problems for parties or counsel, counsel is**  
23 **to contact Judge Larson's chambers directly at (415) 522-2112.**24 Counsel who will try the case or other counsel responsible for the litigation shall  
25 appear at the Settlement Conference with the parties. Any party who is not a natural  
26 person shall be represented by an individual not directly involved in the events which give  
27 rise to the litigation but with full authority to negotiate a settlement. If a party is a  
28 governmental entity, its governing body shall designate one of its members or a senior

1 executive to appear at the Settlement Conference and, if a proposed settlement agreement  
2 is reached, to recommend the agreement to the governmental entity for its approval. An  
3 insured party shall appear with a representative of the carrier with full authority to negotiate  
4 up to the limits of coverage.

5 Personal attendance will rarely be excused by the Court, and only for substantial  
6 hardship. A written application to be available by telephone rather than in person shall be  
7 served on opposing counsel and lodged with the judge, along with the Settlement  
8 Conference Statement.

9 Only upon written showing of good cause, submitted at least seven calendar days  
10 prior to the settlement conference, will the Court excuse a party or Counsel from mandatory  
11 attendance of the settlement conference. Parties or Counsel may be excused from  
12 attending the settlement conference only upon written authorization from Judge Larson.

13 Parties or counsel who fail to attend the settlement conference, and where absence  
14 is not authorized by Judge Larson, will be subject to sanctions, pursuant to Federal Rule of  
15 Civil Procedure 16(f).

16 **At least seven (7) calendar days before the Settlement conference the parties  
17 shall deliver directly to the magistrate judge two copies of a Confidential Settlement  
18 Conference Statement which should be lodged with chambers and should not be  
19 filed with the Clerk of the Court or served upon other parties.**

20 The Confidential Settlement Conference Statement shall be as brief as possible and  
21 should rarely exceed 10 pages. It shall include the following:

- 22 1. A statement of the facts of the case.
- 23 2. A statement of the claims and defenses including, but not limited to, statutory  
24 or other grounds upon which the claims are founded, a forthright evaluation of the parties'  
25 likelihood of prevailing on the claims and defenses and a description of the major issues in  
26 dispute.
- 27 3. A summary of the proceedings to date.

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1           4. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended for further discovery, pretrial  
2 and trial.

## 3 || 5. The relief sought.

4       6. The party's position on settlement, including a history of past settlement  
5 discussions as well as present demands and offers.

6       7. If there have been no prior discussions, plaintiff must serve a demand letter  
7 outlining its theories for recovery, supporting facts and damages in writing before the  
8 conference, and defendant must respond in writing before the conference.

If the case involves any claims for injunctive relief, the parties must meet and confer before the scheduled Settlement Conference in order to resolve as many issues as possible. Results of the meet and confer must be included in the Settlement Conference Statement. Failure to comply with these pre-conditions will result in forfeiture of the Settlement Conference date.

14 Any request to continue the settlement conference shall be submitted in  
15 writing after consultation with the opposing party. Submission by facsimile is  
16 acceptable at facsimile number (415) 522-2140.

17 The parties shall notify Magistrate Judge Larson's chambers immediately if this case  
18 settles prior to the date set for settlement conference.

20 || DATED: February 6, 2008

*James Larson*  
JAMES LARSON  
Chief Magistrate Judge